

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
SYLLABUS

**Title of the Course:** IED 293 American History and Culture (Elective)

**Year and Term:** 2017-2018 Fall

**Class Hours:** Friday 9:30-12:20 **Classroom:** B2-205

**Instructor:** Dr. Aslı Değirmenci

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**Aim and Content:** The course aims to give a survey of American culture and history from the Colonial Era to the present. Important historical figures, events and movements in American culture and history will be studied in a chronological order. Representative cultural and historical texts from each period will be discussed in class in relation to the social, historical, and cultural climate of the period in question.

**Course Outline:**

- Week 1 (Sept 29):** Introduction to the class and the syllabus.  
Short Documentary: “Charlottesville: Race and Terror” (August 2017)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P54sP0Nlmgg&t=5s>
- Week 2 (Oct 6):** Pre-colonial and Colonial Period  
“Mayflower Compact”  
Captain John Smith, from “The General History of Virginia”
- Week 3 (Oct 13):** Revolutionary Period  
Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence”  
St Jean de Crevecoeur, “What is an American”  
George Washington, from “Farewell Address”
- Week 4 (Oct 20):** New England Renaissance: Age of Romanticism and Transcendentalism (1830-1860)  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Nature,” “Self-Reliance”  
Henry David Thoreau, “On Civil Disobedience”
- Week 5 (Oct 27): (continued)**  
Tecumseh, “Sell a Country? Why Not Sell the Air?”  
Chief Seattle, “The Dead Are Not Powerless”  
“Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions” at Seneca Falls Convention  
Margaret Fuller “Woman in the Nineteenth Century”
- Week 6 (Nov 3):** Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction (1865-1877)  
Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I a Woman”  
“The Auction Block” “A Peep into a Slave-Mart”  
Abraham Lincoln, “Final Emancipation Proclamation”, “The Gettysburg Address”
- Week 7 (Nov 10):** Age of Realism (The Gilded Age) 1865-1910  
Mark Twain, from “Life on the Mississippi”  
Frederick Jackson Turner, “The Significance of the Frontier in American History”  
Henry James, from “The Inconceivable Alien”  
Kate Chopin “Desiree’s Baby”  
William Dubois “This Double-Consciousness”  
Charlotte Perkins Gilman, from “Women and Economics”
- Week 8 (Nov 17):** World War I, Jazz Age, The Great Depression  
William James, “Pragmatism”  
Upton Sinclair, “The Jungle”  
Woodrow Wilson “The Fourteen Points”  
Scenes from *The Great Gatsby* (movie)  
Meridel LeSueur, “Women on the Breadlines”
- Week 9 (Nov 24): MIDTERM**
- Week 10 (Dec 1):** WW II, Cold War, American Globalism, Mid-Century  
Harry Truman “The Truman Doctrine”  
George C. Marshall “The Marshall Plan”  
Joseph McCarthy “The Wheeling Speech”  
Walt Disney’s Testimony

**Week 11 (Dec 8):** Postmodern Era, the 60s, Civil Rights Movement, Counterculture  
Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream"  
Malcolm X "The Ballot or the Bullet"  
John F. Kennedy "First Inaugural Address"  
Lyndon Johnson "American Policy in Viet-Nam"  
Betty Friedan "That Has No Name"  
Woodstock, Rock and Roll Songs

**Week 12 (Dec 15):** Rise of Conservatism, First Gulf War  
George Bush, "The Launch of Attack on Iraq"  
E.L. Doctorow, "Open Letter to the President"  
**Term Paper Due, hardcopies & e-mail**

**Week 13 (Dec 22):** 9/11, War on Terror

**Week 14 (Dec 29):** 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Obama, Trump

**The reading materials for each week will be uploaded by the instructor to this google drive folder:**  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B3hjnncl9u-qUGJDMIFxNIR5cE0>

**It is the student's responsibility to print out, read, and bring a hard-copy of the readings to the classroom.**

**IV. Method of Instruction:** The course will begin with introductory lectures which will later on be followed by a close study of the weekly reading materials through critical discussions in the class room.

**V. Requirements:** Full attendance is unconditionally required. **More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1.** The students are expected to do weekly required readings in advance.

**VI. Assessments:** There will be one midterm examination, a term paper, a few pop quizzes on the weekly readings, and a final exam. In grading the exam papers %25 of the total mark will be taken off for grammar mistakes and writing errors.

Midterm examination: % 20

Term Paper: %20

Pop quizzes and class participation: %10

Final: %50

**Term Paper:** Students are expected to write a term paper (1300-1700 words) on a contemporary topic in American society by also using the historical texts we read all semester. The due date for the term paper is December 15, 2017. A hard copy should be submitted to the instructor as well as sending her the document in e-mail. Some of the topics students can write on are listed below:

- Charlottesville events
- Black Lives Matter
- Colin Kaepernick and NFL players' protest
- Confederate Monuments
- Donald Trump's Muslim Travel Ban
- Flint Water Crisis
- North Dakota Access Pipeline/Standing Rock
- Minimum Wage
- Health Insurance/Obamacare (Affordable Care Act)
- Sexual Assault on Campus (Stanford Rape-Brock Allen Turner case)
- Alt-right
- Antifa
- Planned Parenthood/Abortion
- Paris Climate Agreement /Environmental Protection Agency
- Russian Hacking of the US elections
- Lobbying/Lobbyists
- Orlando Gay Nightclub Shooting
- Women's March 2017
- Student Loans-College Debt Crisis
- Millennials vs Boomers